11/21/88

WYOMING

VOL. 25 NO. 10 OCT. 1988

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Jul '88	Aug '88
Labor Force	237,341	235,952
Employment	226,112	225,038
Unemployment	11,229	10,914
Rate (Raw)	4.7	4.6
Rate (S.A.)	5.2	5.5
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.65	$14.71
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.5	43.4
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.4	5.6
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.67	$12.63
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.5	42.5
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	118.5	119.0
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.1	+4.0

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— ACCRA - Cost of Living Comparisons
— Wyoming Counties—A Ten Year Look

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.6 PERCENT

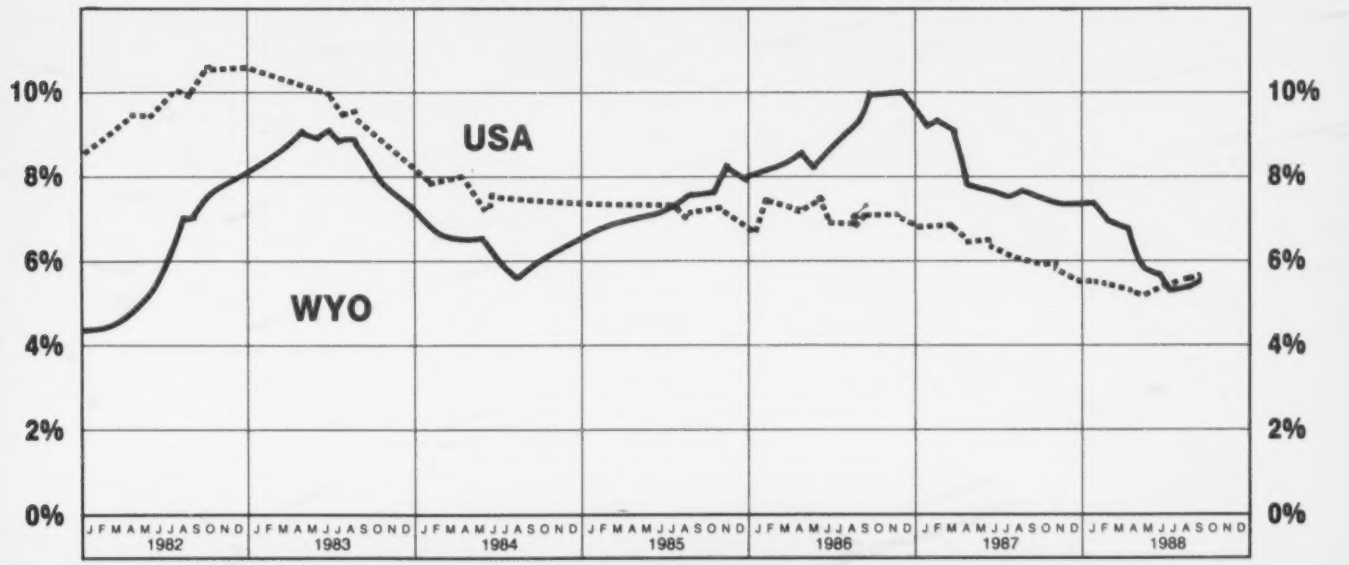
In August both the number of unemployed in the nation and the unemployment rate edged upward. The August rate was 5.6 percent and the number of unemployed was about 6.9 million, seasonally adjusted. Since March the rate has been in the 5.3 to 5.6 percent range. The August, 1987 rate stood at 6.0 percent.

Most of the over-the-month increase in joblessness, from 5.4 to 5.6 percent, occurred among adult men whose unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points to 4.9 percent. In contrast, the rate for adult women edged down to 4.8 percent. Unemployment for whites stood at 4.9 percent compared to 11.3 percent for blacks and 8.4 percent for Hispanics.

STATE'S JOBLESS RATE DOWN AGAIN IN AUGUST

The Wyoming economy indicated continuing signs of improved health in August with an unemployment rate of only 4.6 percent, seasonally unadjusted, down for the seventh month in a row. This was the lowest rate for August since 1981, when the

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

rate was 3.5 percent, and compares with 6.7 percent unemployment a year ago.

The Wyoming seasonally adjusted rate was 5.5 percent, about the same as the U.S. rate of 5.6 percent.

In July, the latest data available for all states, Wyoming's unadjusted unemployment, at 4.7 percent, ranked 21st along with Maine and South Carolina among the states. This compared to a ranking of 11th in July, 1987. In July Louisiana ranked first at 10.2 percent and Vermont was last at 2.3 percent.

ANNUAL LABOR FORCE DECLINES CONTINUE IN MOST WYOMING COUNTIES

At 236,000, the August Wyoming labor force was down 2.6 percent statewide from a year ago, mainly due to a continuing sharp decline in the number of unemployed. At 10,900, the number unemployed dropped annually by almost 5,400, or 33 percent. Total employment, at 225,000, was almost unchanged from the 226,000 recorded a year ago. After five years of a declining worker count this leveling off is encouraging.

In August, 14 of the 23 counties in the state reflected the annual statewide labor force downturn. On the bright side, throughout the state annual employment gains were noted in manufacturing, mining, services, and government. Other major industries in the state were at or below year ago levels. Construction took the worst beating, down 21 percent, or 2,500 workers over-the-year.

TETON COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES AT RECORD LOW

The Jackson, Wyoming area registered a 1.4 percent unemployment rate in August, a record low. In addition, the Teton County annual labor force growth, over 1,500, again led the state. The Yellowstone Park fires did not result in increased unemployment rates in Teton, Park, or other counties in the state. Albany County, the Laramie area, continued to rank second in unemployment with a rate of 2.4 percent and ranked second in annual labor force growth.

The Casper and Cheyenne areas, Natrona and Laramie counties, in August had about the same number of jobseekers, over 1,400. Because of a larger labor force the Cheyenne area rate of 4.0 percent compared to 4.8 percent in the Casper area.

CONVERSE, WYOMING – 1976-1986

Converse County's 1986 population of 36,700 ranked 12th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Converse had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $11,911. This PCPI ranked 13th in the state, and was 93 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 81 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Converse's PCPI of $7,383 ranked 7th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 4.9 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Converse had a total personal income (TPI) of $166,147*. This TPI ranked 13th in the state and accounted for 2.6 percent of the state total. In 1976, Converse's TPI of $65,237* ranked 12th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 9.8 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Converse increased from $57,842* in 1976 to $125,415* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 8.0 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were mining, which accounted for 31.5 percent of earnings; state and local government, 15.8 percent; and transportation and public utilities, approximately 10 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 28.0 percent of earnings; construction, 16.6 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 15.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was construction (10.4 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 3.1 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 12.7 percent.

CROOK, WYOMING – 1976-1986

Crook County's 1986 population of 6,000 ranked 22nd in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Crook had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,273. This PCPI ranked 11th in the state, and was 96 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 84 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Crook's PCPI of $5,843 ranked 17th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 7.7 percent, more than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Crook had a total personal income (TPI) of $73,603*. This TPI ranked 21st in the state and accounted for 1.1 percent of the state total. In 1976, Crook's TPI of $28,527* ranked 22nd in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 9.9 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Crook increased from $20,028* in 1976 to $41,801* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 7.6 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were state and local government, which accounted for 19.8 percent of earnings; mining, 18.6 percent; and construction, 13.1 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 15.5 percent of earnings; state and local government, 14.3 percent; construction, 14.0 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 12.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade (8.1 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 4.6 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 11.2 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF U.S. LABOR FORCE CONTINUES TO RISE

The educational attainment of the U.S. labor force increased significantly over the past decade, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Twenty-six percent of adult workers (25 to 64 years of age) are now college graduates, up from 21 percent 10 years ago. Another 20 percent have completed one to three years of college, up from 16 percent in 1978. There are other highlights from these data collected in March 1988 through the Current Population Survey.

—As the proportion of workers with formal education beyond high school has increased, the proportion without a high school diploma has declined sharply—from 24 percent 10 years ago to 15 percent today. Despite this large and important swing, however, the proportion ending their formal education with a high school diploma has remained stable, at about 40 percent.

—While wide differences remain in the proportion of college graduates among whites, blacks, and Hispanics in the labor force, there have been significant increases in education among all three groups. Twenty-six percent of whites have now attended college for four years or more (verses 21 percent in 1978), compared with 15 percent of blacks (up from 10 percent) and 13 percent of Hispanics (up from 9 percent). Far fewer labor force members in each race/ethnic group have not completed 12 years of education. That proportion has dropped 17 percentage points (to 23 percent) for blacks, 12 percentage points (to 40 percent) for Hispanics, and eight percentage points (to 14 percent) for whites.

—College graduates continue to have the highest rate of labor force participation. Overall, 88 percent of all college graduates ages 25 to 64 were in the labor force in March 1988. The participation rate for persons with one to three years of college was 83 percent, compared with 77 percent for persons who ended their education with a high school degree and 61 percent for persons who had not completed four years of high school.

—Whereas labor force participation rates for men in all educational groups declined over the past 10 years, the largest reductions occurred among those who had not attended college at all. Participation rates for women were higher across the entire educational spectrum, with particularly strong gains among those with the highest attainment—from 62 to 75 percent for those who had completed one to three years of college and from 71 to 81 percent for college graduates.

—March 1988, as in other years, the groups with the highest education experienced the lowest incidence of unemployment. The jobless rate for college graduates (ages 25 to 64) was 1.7 percent, compared with 3.7 percent for persons with 1-3 years of college, 5.4 percent for high school graduates, and 9.4 percent for high school dropouts. At a low 3.3 percent, the unemployment rate for black college graduates was still more than twice that of white graduates (1.5 percent).

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – SECOND QUARTER 1988

	ALL ITEMS	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	91.8	97.1	83.3	70.7	88.4	108.5	100.3
Sheridan	93.8	107.3	78.2	87.5	102.7	100.5	94.6
Neighboring Cities:							
Missoula, MT	97.4	102.1	73.4	95.1	104.2	112.3	106.8
Denver, CO	103.9	91.0	119.7	90.4	108.1	117.3	99.5
Omaha, NE	92.5	92.2	92.0	83.5	104.7	91.8	91.1
Rapid City, SD	101.1	102.3	103.1	112.2	93.4	109.6	96.2
Salt Lake City, UT	98.3	94.6	88.4	94.0	105.4	106.1	104.4
Highest U.S. City	164.8	129.6	332.2	189.3	134.7	201.0	130.1
	Boston MA	Fairbanks AK	Boston MA	New York NY	San Diego CA	Juneau AK	Fairbanks AK
Lowest U.S. City	82.8	87.8	68.6	57.2	80.3	69.6	81.3
	Kennett MD	Salem OR	Hobbs NM	Eugene OR	Waynesboro PA	Cookeville TN	Mercer County PA

*Source: ACCRA, American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTERTAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
August 1988	119.0	119.4	119.5	120.7	112.6	109.6	139.9
Annual % Change	4.0	4.9	3.6	4.4	2.9	2.9	6.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	AUG 1988[1]	JUL 1988[1]	AUG 1987[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	235,952	237,341	242,331	- 0.6	- 2.6
Unemployment	10,914	11,229	16,270	- 2.8	- 32.9
Employed Labor Force	225,038	226,112	226,061	- 0.5	- 0.5
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	174,100	172,900	174,657	0.7	- 0.3
b. Agriculture[3]	14,365	13,926	13,084	3.2	9.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	4.6% 5.5%*	4.7% 5.2%*	6.7% 8.0%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.4% 5.6%*	5.5% 5.4%*	5.8% 6.0%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.6%	1.6%	1.9%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 638.41	$ 637.28	$ 598.66	0.2	6.6
Average Weekly Hours	43.4	43.5	42.1	- 0.2	3.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.71	$ 14.65	$ 14.22	0.4	3.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	13,389	12,852	17,348	4.2	- 22.8
a. Initial	1,607	1,933	1,842	- 16.9	- 12.8
Weeks Compensated	9,085	8,619	13,686	5.4	- 33.6
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,401,735	$ 1,310,039	$ 2,127,937	7.0	- 34.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 153.75	$ 151.20	$ 153.17	1.7	0.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	2,821	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	3,290	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	2,442	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 536.78	$ 538.48	$ 529.48	- 0.3	1.4
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	42.5	42.7	0.0	- 0.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.63	$ 12.67	$ 12.40	- 0.3	1.9
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	119.0	118.5	114.4	0.4	4.0
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	108.0	107.8	103.8	0.2	4.0
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	119.4	118.8	113.8	0.5	4.9

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUG 1988	JUL 1988	AUG 1987	%CHANGE JUL-AUG	%CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1988	JUL 1988	AUG 1987	AUG 1988	JUL 1988	AUG 1987
Statewide	235,952	237,341	242,331	- 0.6	- 2.6	10,914	11,229	16,270	4.6	4.7	6.7
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.5	5.2	8.0
Albany	16,214	16,005	15,695	1.3	3.3	389	368	509	2.4	2.3	3.2
Big Horn	4,696	4,566	4,685	2.8	0.2	279	298	396	5.9	6.5	8.5
Campbell	14,593	14,576	15,440	0.1	- 5.5	748	752	1,133	5.1	5.2	7.3
Carbon	8,264	8,385	8,538	- 1.4	- 3.2	421	439	603	5.1	5.2	7.1
Converse	5,104	5,199	5,501	- 1.8	- 7.2	318	328	444	6.2	6.3	8.1
Crook	3,238	3,341	3,131	- 3.1	3.4	98	128	163	3.0	3.8	5.2
Fremont	14,372	14,247	14,818	0.9	- 3.0	913	977	1,318	6.4	6.9	8.9
Goshen	6,028	6,002	6,048	0.4	- 0.3	285	297	403	4.7	4.9	6.7
Hot Springs	3,130	3,033	3,163	3.2	- 1.0	118	109	246	3.8	3.6	7.8
Johnson	3,619	3,734	3,542	- 3.1	2.2	137	144	218	3.8	3.9	6.2
Laramie	35,601	36,006	36,733	- 1.1	- 3.1	1,409	1,509	1,896	4.0	4.2	5.2
Lincoln	6,001	5,995	6,508	0.1	- 7.8	332	342	597	5.5	5.7	9.2
Natrona	29,938	30,092	31,759	- 0.5	- 5.7	1,429	1,536	2,706	4.8	5.1	8.5
Niobrara	2,261	2,276	2,138	- 0.7	5.8	59	71	105	2.6	3.1	4.9
Park	14,489	14,818	14,339	- 2.2	1.0	528	540	753	3.6	3.6	5.3
Platte	4,264	4,275	4,165	- 0.3	2.4	236	221	301	5.5	5.2	7.2
Sheridan	11,587	11,467	12,232	1.0	- 5.3	588	520	728	5.1	4.5	6.0
Sublette	2,576	2,598	2,868	- 0.8	- 10.2	139	154	239	5.4	5.9	8.3
Sweetwater	16,724	17,115	18,340	- 2.3	- 8.8	1,241	1,266	1,695	7.4	7.4	9.2
Teton	15,673	15,883	14,128	- 1.3	10.9	213	236	274	1.4	1.5	1.9
Uinta	9,541	9,552	10,432	- 0.1	- 8.5	627	579	992	6.6	6.1	9.5
Washakie	4,866	4,952	4,855	- 1.7	0.2	243	259	362	5.0	5.2	7.5
Weston	3,172	3,220	3,275	- 1.5	- 3.1	163	154	190	5.1	4.8	5.8
United States									5.4	5.5	5.8
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.6	5.4	6.0

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition The 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1988[2]	JUL 1988[3]	AUG 1987	JUL 1988	AUG 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1988	to AUG 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	180.6	181.6	183.7	- 0.6	- 1.7
Manufacturing	8.2	8.2	8.1	0.0	1.2
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	172.4	173.4	175.6	- 0.6	- 1.8
Mining	18.0	17.9	17.9	0.6	0.6
Contract Construction	9.6	9.7	12.1	- 1.0	- 20.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.7	12.7	12.9	0.0	- 1.6
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	- 5.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.7	4.8	4.9	- 2.1	- 4.1
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.1	6.0	6.0	1.7	1.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	40.9	41.2	41.7	- 0.7	- 1.9
Wholesale Trade	6.8	6.8	6.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	34.1	34.4	34.9	- 0.9	- 2.3
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.2	5.3	5.4	- 1.9	- 3.7
Eating & Drinking Places	13.3	13.5	13.4	- 1.5	- 0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.4	0.0	- 2.7
Services	35.7	36.1	35.6	- 1.1	0.3
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Medical & Other Health Services	7.8	7.9	7.6	- 1.3	2.6
Government	48.3	48.6	48.0	- 0.6	0.6
Federal Government	8.6	8.6	8.6	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	39.7	40.0	39.4	- 0.8	0.8
State Government	12.8	12.9	12.5	- 0.8	2.4
Local Government	26.9	27.1	26.9	- 0.7	0.0

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

Table 3 (Cont'd)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1988[2]	JUL 1988[3]	AUG 1987	JUL 1988	AUG 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1988	to AUG 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.1	26.1	26.7	0.0	- 2.3
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.4	0.4	- 25.0	- 25.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.7	24.7	25.4	0.0	- 2.8
Mining	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.0	- 17.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	- 5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.0	7.9	7.8	1.3	2.6
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.3	2.3	4.4	4.4
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.3	5.4	5.5	- 1.9	- 3.6
Government	4.3	4.3	4.5	0.0	- 4.4
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	3.7	3.7	3.8	0.0	- 2.6
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.8	29.7	30.1	0.3	- 1.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.7	28.6	29.0	0.4	- 1.0
Contract Construction	2.0	1.9	2.3	5.3	- 13.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.1	7.1	7.1	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0
Government	9.4	9.4	9.4	0.0	0.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	- 3.6
State & Local Government	6.7	6.7	6.6	0.0	1.5

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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